THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 30th March 1950.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Grant of certified copies of documents by the Revenue Authorities without Civil Courts certificates

* 28 Q[a] .—SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have passed orders for the Revenue Authorities granting certified copies (except in the case of privileged documents) without insisting on certificates from civil courts?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The Government have issued instructions to District Collectors to grant certified copies of documents to bona fide applicants and persons interested in the subject-matter of the document without the production of a court certificate."

Alleged speech of the Hon. the Finance Minister at Kurnool regarding corruption among officials.

* 29 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he addressed a public meeting in Kurnool during his recent tour along with the Hon. Chief Minister;

(*b*) whether, in the course of his speech, he gave expression to the view that everybody is corrupt including the Hon. Ministers and officials;

(*c*) if so, whether the opinion he expressed is his personal opinion or the opinion of the Government; and

(*d*) whether the Government have received representations that the expression of such irresponsible, frivolous and preposterous opinion is not calculated to enhance the prestige of and respect for the Government?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) Does not arise.

" (*d*) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know what exactly is the view he expressed and which has been misreported? "

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[a]Short notice question.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" At this distance of time, I do not remember what I said."

Enquiry into the Socio-Economic effects of Prohibition.

* 30 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an enquiry into the economic effects of Prohibition is proposed;

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what the agency proposed is;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a similar enquiry was conducted by the first Congress Ministry through the Universities of the State;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to request the Economic Departments of the Universities to undertake the enquiry; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that he expressed an opinion in the course of his tour in Anantapur district that Prohibition has been a failure?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) An enquiry into the Socio-Economic effects of Prohibition has been started.

" (*b*) Under the direction of the Economic Advisor the enquiry is being conducted by a small team of 4 Economic Investigators assisted by the Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevaks of the Firka Development Department.

" (*c*) In 1938, at the instance of the Government, the Economics Department of the University of Madras conducted an economic survey in Salem district with a view to assess the results of Prohibition.

" (*d*) No.

" (*e*) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of entrusting such economic enquiry to authorities who are not subject to the State so that their results may be confidently accepted by the general public?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I am sure the public will accept even the results obtained by the Government officers when they are socio-economic matters."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Were the Universities approached on this matter?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" No, it was not necessary. We thought we could ourselves do it. We have the Firka Development Officers and the Grama Sevaks and we are going to enquire about 20,000 people in 2,000 villages."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that there are many people who think Prohibition is a failure